

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
14 DECEMBER 1966

1. Soviet Union

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2. Guinea

The Chinese Communists seem to be eyeing the vacuum created by Touré's "rejection" of US help. Peking has recently come up with \$28 million in new credits, as well as promises to help meet Guinea's basic food imports. The Chinese, however, would be hard pressed to supplant US assistance completely.

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3. West Germany

We see Kiesinger's policy speech yesterday as an effort to dissociate his government from the stagnation of the Erhard days. He tried to create an activist image by stressing his determination to balance the 1967 budget, and generally emphasizing the domestic scene.

The foreign policy section was couched mainly in cautious generalities

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Although there were some warm words for the US and NATO, he left the impression that cooperation with France and European unification are uppermost in his mind.

4. Congo

Relations with Belgium are back on the bad side.

Mobutu has reneged on the tentative agreement with Union Minière which we reported in the Brief for 3 December.

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Now Mobutu is making unacceptable demands--with a 1 January deadline--and there is talk of the Congo Army taking over mines and refineries if the company does not knuckle under.

Mobutu, however, has backed away from confrontations with the Belgians before.

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5. Venezuela

The army has taken the bull by the horns and is pressing on with a reinvigorated antiterrorist campaign. The suspension of constitutional guarantees yesterday was followed up today with the army's occupation of the Central University in Caracas, long the principal haven in the city for the Communist terrorists.

The army's move should put a significant crimp in the terrorist effort. At the same time, however, it will cause an outcry among students and among many other democratic-minded Venezuelans who have long cherished the legally sanctioned immunity of the university from government intervention.

This is the first time since the overthrow of the dictatorship eight years ago that the military has taken such a step in Venezuela. University immunity--traditional in Latin America--has recently been breaking down elsewhere.

6. Syria

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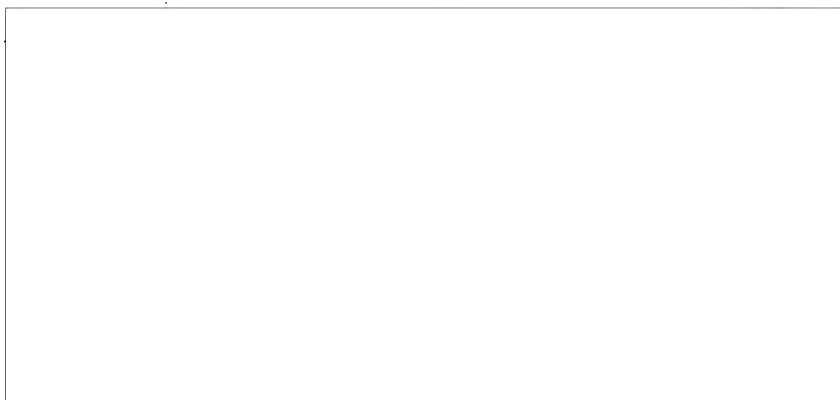
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7. Macao

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